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RCE/3739
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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of

Masakazu HIGUMA et al.

Date: August 22, 2002

Serial No.: 09/370,659

Group Art Unit: 3739

Filed: August 6, 1999

Examiner: J. Mulcahy

For: ENDOSCOPE CAPABLE OF BEING AUTOCLAVED

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Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

AUG 28 2002

TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700

REQUEST FOR CONTINUED EXAMINATION

Sir:

This is a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under the provisions of 37 C.F.R. § 114, of the above-identified application.

Check No. 10531 which includes the RCE fee of \$740.00 (\$740 - large entity/\$370 - small entity) and any extension/suspension fee, is enclosed herewith.

In the event the actual fee is greater than the payment submitted or is inadvertently not enclosed or if any additional fee during the prosecution of this application is not paid, the Patent Office is authorized to charge the under-payment to Deposit Account No. 15-0700.

If this communication is filed after a shortened statutory time period in said pending application had elapsed and no separate Petition is enclosed, the Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks is petitioned, under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a), to extend the time for filing a response to the outstanding Office Action by the number of months which will avoid abandonment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.135. The fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17 should be charged to our Deposit Account No. 15-0700.

☒ If checked, please enter and consider the Amendment previously filed on July 19, 2002 under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116.

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☐ If checked, an Amendment and/or Affidavit(s)/Declaration(s) and/or IDS
are enclosed.

☐ If checked, please consider the arguments in the Appeal Brief and Reply
Brief previously submitted.

☐ If checked, suspension of action is requested under 37 C.F.R. § 1.103(c)
for a period of _____ months (3 maximum).

EXPRESS MAIL CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being
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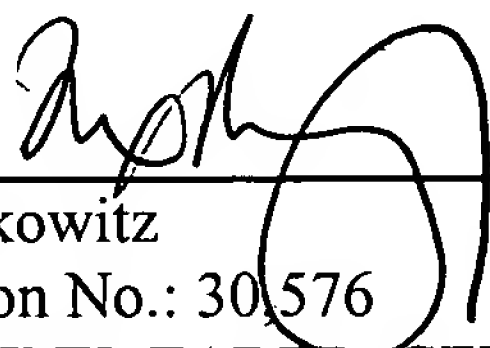
Name of Person Mailing Correspondence


Signature

August 22, 2002

Date of Signature

Respectfully submitted,


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